

spending, and he's right, because for 6 years, President Bush joined with Republicans that led this Congress on the most fiscally irresponsible budget policies in the history of the Nation. They turned the record surpluses of the 1990s into the record deficits we face today, and while they ran up those record deficits, inconceivably they cut medical research. They cut Head Start, they cut clean water programs, and they cut health care for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic budget balances the budget within 5 years, and our appropriations bills comply with pay-as-you-go scoring. We passed Homeland Security and Military Construction and Veterans appropriations bills last week, and this week we'll pass an Energy and Water bill that includes renewable fuel and reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, the President's right; we do have different priorities on Federal spending.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE NRA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, nearly 2 months after the horrifying events at Virginia Tech took the lives of 32 innocent people, I am grateful the House last week acted to improve State reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Sadly, had this legislation been in place sooner, that tragic day at Virginia Tech might never have occurred.

I'm especially pleased that the National Rifle Association, of which I'm a proud member, was active in supporting this effort. I'm also thankful John Goodwin, previously with former Congressman Rob Simmons, has recently joined their able team. The NRA plays a vital role in promoting second amendment rights, and I appreciate their work.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families affected by the Virginia Tech shootings. I urge the Senate to quickly consider H.R. 2640 to ensure guns are available to law-abiding citizens and kept from the hands of criminals.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11. Our sympathy to the people of Charleston due to the tragic deaths of courageous firemen.

DEMOCRATS MAKE GLOBAL WARMING A PRIORITY THIS WEEK AS PART OF ENERGY AND WATER BILL

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week the new Democratic House addresses two of our Nation's most im-

portant issues, global warming and energy independence.

This new Democratic Congress recognizes that we must take wide-ranging action to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and to cut our greenhouse gas emissions to protect our planet, to reduce energy prices, and to boost our economy while strengthening our national security.

This week we will bring an Energy and Water funding bill to the floor that makes a significant investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

We invest \$51 million more than the President has asked for in our solar energy and more affordable, \$70 million more for the development of biofuels, and \$59 million more to develop technologies to improve our fuel efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, this new Democratic Congress is serious about addressing the issues that have been ignored for far too long. I would hope our energy bill would receive strong bipartisan support this week.

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FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has been very clear. If Congress sends him appropriations bills that weaken current pro-life provisions, he will veto the bills. But don't be surprised if the new Democratic majority is trying to do so anyway. When they do, I am sure they will have countless reasons for why they should weaken protections for the unborn.

But as this debate goes forward, it's important to keep in mind how much Uncle Sam already gives to abortion providers. Planned Parenthood reported record profits in 2005-2006 fiscal year. Guess who helped them achieve these profits? That's right, the American taxpayer.

In 2005-2006, Planned Parenthood received over \$305 million in taxpayer funding, the most ever in a year. They also performed nearly 265,000 abortions, another record. Keep this in mind as we hear the other side's arguments for giving even more money to abortion providers. The fact is, these groups are milking the American taxpayers.

President Bush is right to stand up for current pro-life provisions, and House Republicans will stand with him on the issue.

GENERAL PETRAEUS ADMITS THAT CONDITIONS WILL NOT IMPROVE IN IRAQ BY SEPTEMBER

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, through a congressional debate on the Iraq sup-

plemental funding bill, Senate and House Republican leaders said that significant improvements will be needed to be seen by September in Iraq, otherwise a serious course correction might be needed.

We'll see if Republican leaders will continue to back those words and will finally join us in moving the Iraq war in a new direction, or will they move the deadline to a later date like they have done in the past. It will be interesting to see if they stand by their statements in light of General David Petraeus' acknowledgment over the weekend that conditions in Iraq were not improved by September. The general also indicated that stabilizing Iraq will take as long as 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats remain committed to forging a new direction in Iraq. In the coming months, Democrats will continue to hold President Bush accountable to fight to ensure that the Iraqi people take control of the country. A 10-year commitment is simply unacceptable to us. Now we will see if the Republicans will stand by their past statements and join us in the efforts in September.

CHILD CRUSADERS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in the days of the recent past, when a child was sexually assaulted, the criminal justice system continued to victimize the child, because the victim was bounced all over town relating the story to numerous strangers.

Sometimes a child, when interviewed at the police station, actually came in direct contact with the offender. Also, the child could wait for hours in the same county emergency rooms as other victims of stabbings, car wrecks and overdoses.

But times have changed. There are over 680 child advocacy centers in the United States, including one in Houston, where victims go when assaulted. At the center are trained police, therapists, doctors and lawyers that are experts in dealing with children. Here the child is helped before the trial, during the trial, and, yes, after trial.

The National Children's Alliance, led by Nancy Chandler, is the umbrella organization that helps these 600-plus centers throughout the Nation. All these child crusaders are in Washington this week working to make our land safer for kids.

America is grateful to these members of the victims' posse that help protect our greatest resource, children. After all, it shouldn't hurt to be a kid in the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

MAKE GLOBAL WARMING A PRIORITY THIS WEEK AS PART OF ENERGY AND WATER BILL

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House